(b) if so, the gist of the report and Government's reaction to the poor performance of the country in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) India is ranked 65th on the Global Hunger Index (GHI), 2009 (as brought out by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) - an alliance of 64 governments, private foundations, and international and regional organizations). The index is based on prevalence of child malnutrition, rates of child mortality and the proportion of people who are calorie deficient. The global hunger index for India has declined from 31.7 to 23.9 for the period 1990 to 2009.

The percentage of children under age three who are underweight has declined from 52 percent, as per the National Family Health Servey 1 (1992-93) to 40 percent, as per the National Family Health Survey 3(2005-06). The rate of under five mortality has declined from 117 per thousand live births in 1990 to 72 in 2007, as per the State of the World's Children 2009.

(b) As per the Global hunger index 2009 report, released by the International Food Policy Research Institute, 29 countries have levels of hunger that are alarming or extremely alarming. The countries with the highest 2009 GHI scores are Burundi, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Sierra Leone. In most of the countries with high GHI scores, war and violent conflict have given rise to widespread poverty and food insecurity. Nearly all the countries in which the GHI rose since 1990 are in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The government is implementing the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Wheat Based Nutrition Programme (WBNP), Annapurna Scheme, Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls, Village Grain Banks Scheme. Under the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) programme, Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres are being set up to treat malnourished children.

Availability of life saving drugs

539. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any report with regard to the shortage of life saving drugs in the Government hospitals in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure the availability of the life saving drugs in Government hospitals in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No such report has been received so far in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Health being a state subject the information regarding shortage of the saving drugs in Government Hospitals in the country is not centrally maintained.

So far as Central Government Hospitals in Delhi, namely Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College and its associated hospitals are concerned, there is no shortage of essential & life saving medicines in these hospitals. All life-saving & essential medicines are available in these hospitals as per hospital formulary. The provision for local purchase for such essential and life saving drugs, the poor patients in emergency condition, is also available.

Palliative care centres in the country

540. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of palliative care centres in the country, State-wise; and

(b) what steps Government has taken to set up more palliative care centres in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, under its National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) has provided financial assistance to 27 Regional Cancer Centers (RCCs) and Government Medical Colleges in the States to provide comprehensive cancer care facilities including palliative care. State-wise distribution of Oncology Wings supported under NCCP in India is given in the Statement (*See* below).

Statement

State-wise list of Oncology Wing

Sl.No.	Name of the States/UTs	No. of Oncology Wing
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6
2.	Assam	4
3	Bihar	1
4	Chandigarh	2
5.	Chhattisgarh	1
6.	Delhi	1
7.	Goa	1
8.	Gujarat	3
9.	Haryana	2
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	3